

RECOGNIZING PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS JUAN TAIJERON ON RECEIVING COAST GUARD SECTOR GUAM'S RESERVE ENLISTED PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Petty Officer 2nd Class Juan Taijeron on being named Coast Guard Sector Guam's Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year.

Petty Officer Taijeron is a boatswains mate currently assigned to Station Apra Harbor Guam, and was chosen as the Sector Guam's Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year by the U.S. Coast Guard. He serves as a tactical coxswain and engineer on the 45 ft. Response Boat—Medium (RB-M) and 25 ft. Response Boat—(RB-S). His duties include: boarding team member instructor, boat crew member instructor, and Weapons Petty Officer.

The U.S. Coast Guard awarded Officer Taijeron this distinguished honor for successfully achieving the highest underway hours for certified engineers, executing 385 hours underway, many of which were performed outside of his rating specialty as a boat engineer, through 141 missions.

Born and raised on Guam, Petty Officer Taijeron entered the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves in 2008. After graduating high school in 1997, he attended leadership and management school. He has been a civilian dive boat captain and dive master for 15 years. The knowledge he has of Guam is invaluable when training new members of Station Apra Harbor.

His major awards and decorations include: Coast Guard Commandant Letter of Commendation; Coast Guard Meritorious Team with Bronze Star; Coast Guard Special Operations Service Ribbon; Coast Guard Overseas Ribbon; Coast Guard Reserve Good Conduct; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Device; National Defense Service Medal; and Coast Guard Pistol Expert Medal.

He is also an active member of our island community, as he volunteered more than 100 hours of liberty time to help set up 12 static displays to provide education to the public about the Coast Guard operations as well as volunteering at the Angel Tree Project for underprivileged children during the holiday season.

Petty Officer Taijeron embodies the Coast Guard's core values: honor, respect, and devotion to duty.

I congratulate Petty Officer 2nd Class Juan Taijeron on being named Coast Guard Sector Guam's Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year. I join the people of Guam in commending him and thanking him for his contributions to our community. I wish him the best of luck as he competes for national honors with his peers from other Coast Guard Districts across the nation.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE TAX ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition H.R. 249, the Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act.

Failure to pay taxes is a serious offense and should be treated as such. Unfortunately, this bill is not a serious attempt to address that very complicated issue. Instead of being a good faith effort, this bill is being used as a political stunt and appears to be an attack on public employees.

During Oversight and Government Reform Committee markup on this bill, a series of questions were raised about the Internal Revenue Service procedures related to tax delinquency. These questions include what steps may be taken to resolve a delinquency, when enforced collection action may be used, how repayment schedules are established, among others. Addressing these types of questions and concerns is what the Committee process is for. Chairman ISSA and Ranking Member CUMMINGS wrote a letter to Steven Miller, Acting Commissioner at the IRS, to better understand these processes. The majority pledged to consider these responses and to amend this measure accordingly. Instead of waiting even two weeks for a reply, H.R. 9 was brought to the floor without amendment. The Chairman refused to wait for the answer to his own letter.

I am also concerned that this bill does not make sufficient allowances for the dispute process to do its work. Americans have the right to appeal IRS collection actions. While exemptions are provided when a hearing has been scheduled under Collection Due Process, appeals to that ruling or under the Collection Appeals Program are not. Punishing anyone while they are still in the process of pursuing the normal IRS dispute process is wrong.

Americans around the country are paying their taxes today. None of them should be fired while pursuing their legal rights to appeal or dispute IRS action. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 249.

RECOGNIZING THE 23RD ANNUAL DC BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as the Supreme Court considers two historic marriage equality cases, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 23rd annual DC Black Pride celebration, to be held in Washington, DC on May 24–26, 2013.

The DC Black Pride celebration is a multi-day festival featuring a reception, films, a poetry slam, a church service, educational workshops, community town hall meetings, a basketball tournament, and a health and wellness expo, among other events. We in the District

of Columbia are pleased and proud that the DC Black Pride celebration is widely considered to be one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 30,000 people to the nation's capital from across the United States as well as from Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

We are particularly proud that the DC Black Pride was the very first Black Pride celebration and fostered the beginning of the Center for Black Equity (formerly known as the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc. (IFBP)) and the "Black Pride Movement," which now consists of 40 Black Prides on four continents.

Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc., the celebration's organizing body, has chosen "Step Up and Be Heard" as the theme for this year's celebration. This theme reflects the connectedness of the Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community and its commitment to fulfilling the mission of DC Black Pride, which is to increase awareness of and pride in the diversity of the Black LGBT community. Moreover, the theme expresses the resolve of the African-American LGBT community and its allies to come together to: fight for LGBT equality; celebrate its heritage and culture as members of both the Black and LGBT communities; and promote health and wellness for the community.

We congratulate the DC Black Pride board of directors, coordinator of the annual event and smaller events throughout the year: Andrea Woody-Macko; Derrick Dunning; Earl Fowlkes, Jr; June Spence; Kenneth Hopson; Kenya Hutton; Lauren Morris; Leandrea Gilliam; Marc Morgan; and Robert "Harold" Dinkins.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in welcoming all attending the 23rd annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, D.C., and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that the American citizens who reside in Washington, D.C. are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

A TRIBUTE TO NYLA ARSLANIAN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an exceptional woman, Nyla Arslanian of Los Feliz, California, who is one of the strongest advocates for the arts in the city of Los Angeles, as well as a pioneer in the cultural tourism movement in the city.

Ms. Arslanian is the editor of Discover Hollywood Magazine, now in its 27th year, whose mission is to inform visitors and residents alike, about the unique culture and lore of Hollywood. Nyla is married to Oscar Arslanian, who is her partner in their entertainment management and publishing firm, Arslanian & Associates, Inc. In addition to publishing Discover Hollywood Magazine, they represent